

Case Study

Module 17: The Willamette Valley

Study Questions

1. Willamette Valley citizens, landowners, scientists and farmers represent thousands of different viewpoints, values, needs, educational backgrounds, and levels of knowledge about the complexities of resource management and socio-economics. One common thread that connects these people to their landscape is their reliance on and respect for the Willamette River. Consider the potential of this landscape and its plausible alternative futures. If you lived there, what trajectory of change would you favor, and what actions would you take to influence its realization over the next 50 years?



2. Historically floodwaters of the Willamette River inundated over 300,000 acres of the valley during the winter rains. This disturbance regime has been drastically altered over the past 60 years by construction and operation of 14 dams in the upper part of the Basin. Given this infrastructure and the economy it serves, and the needs for irrigation water, flood control, and hydroelectric power, what technical advice would you give landowners wishing to protect their riverbanks from erosion while contributing to the restoration or conservation of floodplain functions and salmon populations?

